

**Monday 14 March 2016**

**Colleges Scotland's Statement on the Commission on Widening Access Final Report**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“We fully support the beliefs expressed in the Commission’s report in relation to fair access. The proposition that a whole system approach will be required is consistent with Colleges Scotland’s vision for a more seamless educational landscape in Scotland. The college sector is pivotal to an efficient integrated educational system and is strategically placed to play a key role in implementing many of the report’s recommendations.

“Colleges Scotland has already set out a number of innovative solutions to deliver a more efficient and integrated educational landscape. These solutions would deliver the desired co-ordinated approach to access and to remove duplication, presenting young people with a coherent and comprehensive offer.

“In recent years colleges have made considerable progress in securing and developing articulation arrangements that facilitate the progress of students from college to degree-level provision at university. Colleges Scotland also believes that the development of a standardised system of articulation will contribute to a more seamless landscape that facilitates young people to plan their learning journey. This will allow them to achieve their ambitions for higher education while avoiding duplication and affording efficiencies for the student, the institution and, ultimately, the public purse.

“The college sector, as well as delivering 20% of higher education provision itself, has always recognised, supported and facilitated alternative pathways to higher education institutions, helping individuals overcome disadvantage in so doing.”

**ENDS**

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